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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/027,607

12/19/2001

Kenneth W. Aull

15-0254

3015

7590

04/14/2006

CHRISTOPHER P. HARRIS
TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO LLP
526 SUPERIOR AVENUE,
SUITE 1111
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-1400

EXAMINER

KHOSHNOODI, NADIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/027,607	Applicant(s) AULL ET AL.	
	Examiner Nadia Khoshnoodi	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/27/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 & 3-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/27/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to amended claims 1, 3, 5, 11, & 15 and previously presented claims 4, 6-10, 12-14, & 16-20 filed 1/27/2006 have been fully considered and therefore the claims are rejected under new grounds.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

I. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

II. Claims 1 and 3-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burn, United States Pub. No. 2003/0005291 and further in view of Carlsson et al., US Patent No. 6,490,367.

As per claim 1:

Burn substantially teaches a token issuance and binding process comprising: providing a plurality of tokens, each token having a unique ID number stored therein (par. 6, lines 1-7 and par. 37, lines 1-3); generating a unique public/private key pair for each token (par. 36, lines 8-15); storing each token ID number and corresponding public key in a directory/database (par. 36, lines 16-19); storing each private key in its respective token (par. 36-37 and table 1, field name "User Certificate"); and binding a unique ID number of a user to a corresponding one of the plurality of tokens by storing said correspondence there between in the directory/database (par. 36-37 and fig. 5, element 140).

Not explicitly disclosed is reviewing, by a Tokenizing Officer, credentials of the user and forwarding the user ID number and the token ID number to a CMS (Certificate Management System) along with an E-form (electronic form) request and signature of the Tokenizing Officer, wherein the Tokenizing Officer comprises a person. However, Carlsson et al. teach reviewing, by a Tokenizing Officer, credentials of the user and forwarding the user ID number and the token ID number to a CMS (Certificate Management System) along with an E-form (electronic form) request and signature of the Tokenizing Officer, wherein the Tokenizing Officer comprises a person (col. 8, lines 12-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to add a Tokenizing Officer, who is a person, to review credentials of a user and to forward the user information to a CMS along with an electronic request form and Tokenizing Officer's signature. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Carlsson et al. suggest that having a person as the Tokenizing Officer is easy to administer and adds to security because

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the credentials are checked by someone who is acquainted with the users so it is harder to forge an identity in the binding process in col. 8, lines 20-27.

As per claim 3:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teach the process as applied to claim 1 above. Not explicitly disclosed is the binding further comprising the CMS checking for redundant user tokens and revoking any such user tokens. However, Carlsson et al. teach revoking tokens of individuals when their role has changed in order to do away with redundant certificates, i.e. so that one user does not have two valid certificates with different roles especially when one of the roles has been revoked. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to incorporate the ability to check and revoke any such tokens that are not distinct. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Carlsson et al. teach that it is important that certificates that are invalid are revoked in order to prevent from users gaining access to various objects that they are no longer authorized for in col. 9, lines 14-20.

As per claim 4:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teaches the process as applied to claim 3 above. Furthermore, Carlsson et al. teach the binding further comprising the CMS filling in the E-form from its directory/database and forwarding the filled in E-form to the Tokenizing Officer (col. 8, lines 28-37).

As per claim 5:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teaches the process as applied to claim 4 above.

Furthermore, Carlsson et al teach the binding further comprising the Tokenizing Officer reviewing data in filled in E-form and comparing against user credentials and returning same to CMS after signing (col. 8, lines 12-27).

As per claim 6:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teach the process as applied to claim 5 above. Furthermore, Burn teaches generating and wrapping at least a signature certificate/private and associated private key for the user in the unique public key of the token and returning same to the Tokenizing Officer (par. 44, lines 1-13). Not explicitly disclosed is the binding further comprising the CMS validating the Tokenizing Officer's signature. However, Burn teaches that when the CA receives a message from the HTP it must be decrypted, hence verified. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to incorporate the ability to validate the HTP's signature. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Burn suggests that validating the Tokenizing Officer's signature is important to ensure that a valid Tokenizing Officer is supplying the user information in par. 44, lines 1-5.

As per claim 7:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teach the process as applied to claim 6 above. Furthermore, Burn teaches the binding further comprising the Tokenizing Officer storing the signature certificate/private key for the user in the token (par. 44, lines 14-21).

As per claim 8:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teach the process as applied to claim 7 above. Not

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explicitly disclosed is the binding further comprising the user unwrapping the signature certificate/private key using the token private key stored in the token. However, Burn teaches the HTP unwrapping the signature certificate/private key stored in the token. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to instead have the user unwrap the information in the token. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Burn suggests that in order to use the certificate it must be able to be decrypted by the private key stored in the token, which is stored therein to ensure that the private key is kept confidential and will not be compromised in par. 44, lines 14-21.

As per claim 9:

Burn and Carlsson et al. substantially teach the process as applied to claim 1 above. Not explicitly disclosed by Burn is the process wherein providing a plurality of tokens comprises providing a plurality of USB (Universal Serial Bus) tokens. However, Burn teaches the use of a hardware token that could be implemented in various ways. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to have the hardware tokens comprise of USB tokens. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Burn suggest that any type of hardware token can be used in par. 46.

As per claim 10:

Burn teaches the process as applied to claim 1 above. Not explicitly disclosed by Burn is

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the process wherein providing a plurality of tokens comprises providing a plurality of smart cards. However, Burn teaches that a smartcard could be used in an alternate embodiment.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Burn to have the hardware tokens comprise of smartcards.

This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Burn suggests that any type of hardware token can be used, for example a smart card, in par. 31.

As per claim 11:

The limitations in claim 11 are similar in scope to the limitations disclosed in claim 1, thus it is rejected for the same reasons since it is merely the system that implements the rejected method claim.

As per claims 12-20:

The limitations in claims 12-20 are similar in scope to the limitations disclosed in claims 3-10, thus it are rejected for the same reasons since they are merely components of the system that implement the rejected method claims.

**References Cited, Not Used*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,943,423
2. U.S. Patent No. 6,438,550

The above references have been cited because they are relevant due to the manner in which the invention has been claimed.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nadia Khoshnoodi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3825.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nadia Khoshnoodi
Examiner Art Unit 2137
4/10/2006

NK


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER